

REMARKS

Claims 22-41 are pending and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the remarks below.

Claim Rejections

Claims 29 and 31 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,409,974 of Freedland. The Examiner also rejects claim 30 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Freedland. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection, in order to expedite prosecution Applicants amend claim 29 to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 32, thereby obviating the basis for the Examiner's rejection.

Double Patenting

Claims 22-28 and 33-41 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 5,860,978, and claims 29-32 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,302,886.

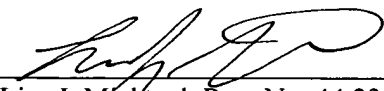
Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer herewith, thereby obviating the basis for the Examiner's rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that claims 22-31 and 33-41 are in condition for allowance. Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned upon receipt of this response to discuss any issues that may remain.

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Respectfully submitted,



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